



Memorandum

TO: Rules and Open Government
Committee

FROM: Councilmember Rose Herrera

SUBJECT: Permit Streamlining

DATE: 5/22/14

APPROVE

Rose Herrera mg

DATE

5/22/14

Recommendation

Direct staff to:

1. Continue to meet with stakeholders that frequently work with the planning department, such as architects and contractors, representatives from the American Institute of Architects (AIA), Building Industry Association (BIA), and the Chamber of Commerce, in order to gather feedback on:
 - a. processes that could be improved and
 - b. the stakeholders business needs;
2. Return with recommendations for the expansion of the 24 hour online permit processing;
3. Report to the Community and Economic Development Committee a result of a benchmark study of methods in Phoenix, AZ.

Background

As the city whose mission is to "work at the speed of business" we must continually assess our processes; those that are working, and those that could use improvement. As the Capitol of Silicon Valley, San Jose must seize the opportunity to utilize the kind of innovation and technology pioneered by Silicon Valley companies to improve our Planning and Development Services. We need to take a look at how other cities have implemented an expedited permitting process to boost economic activity.

The City of Phoenix has implemented an approach to permit streamlining that is worth investigation by our planning department. While I'm not suggesting the wholesale adoption of the Phoenix program for San Jose, I think that the Phoenix program provides a good starting place to engage our local development and business community in a discussion that will lead to the development of our own expanded streamlined permitting system that will meet the needs of our local development and business community while upholding the City's building code, standards and ordinances.